

From the Ross Valley Reporter

doodlebug to Re-open

After a devastating fire on Christmas Eve it looked like **doodlebug** might not be able to recover. The extent of damage allowed the landlord to terminate the lease and a miscommunication on insurance meant huge losses. However, Marnie Delaney, owner of the store, is remarkably stubborn and didn't want to sacrifice three years of effort, nor did she want to lose what she calls the "tremendous extended family" which had found the store a good resource and which provide her with a way to be connected to the Marin community she obviously values. So, barring unexpected problems, **doodlebug** will re-open on June 21. Camp Creative (in it's fourth year as a favorite summer activity) will actually begin the it's first week (a Mosaic Camp) on June 14, in advance of the reopening and temporarily residing in the space previously occupied by Oliver's bookstore. Subsequently, a major Grand Re-opening celebration and two fundraiser weeks are scheduled from July 5 – July 18. A percentage of the stores profits will be donated to the Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation (in honor of the Ross Valley Fire Department) during the week of July 5 and to Pets Unlimited (in honor of all adopted **doodlebug** pets) the week of July 12.

After the fire, early outgoing messages on the stores voicemail and website (www.doodlebugmarin.com) focused on thanks to the Ross Valley Fire Department for their brave and thoughtful support during and after the fire as well as to letting people know how to pick up items that were being held in the store. Subsequently, some classes resumed, taught by Rachel Brown and held at the Ross Recreation facility. In addition, Katie Riedy, a popular long-time employee at the store, began to organize pottery painting parties held in people's homes. Incoming messages of support and encouragement poured in on the voicemail and in notes left on the front door – all of which contributed to Marnie's determination to find a way to come back from the disaster.

Eventually the lease was re-written and construction began on the space at 641 San Anselmo Avenue in downtown San Anselmo. Marnie began to go about re-ordering the arts/crafts supplies and kits, creative gifts and games and the bisque plates and mugs and other items that have provided so many treasured keepsakes of a visit to **doodlebug** (no one can count the number of baby footprints that have been transferred onto a precious heirloom-to-be).

In addition, Marnie says that she is taking this opportunity to re-organize the space. "I learned my lesson and won't have as much extra stock on hand – so there will be a bit more space for people to do other projects. We'll have a mosaic bar, canvasses, wood and other surfaces for people to paint and decorate. Alternatively, knitting a few holiday scarves, creating some beautiful greeting cards or making some special jewelry may satisfy someone's creative needs...there will be lots of choices - we just want to provide a comfortable place and the resources to flex one's creative muscles." All of the projects at **doodlebug** can inspire a nice social occasion or provide a restful way to spend time on your own. The options are endless and the store has always been brimming with ideas, inspiration and resources. Not to mention an eclectic selection of great music!

"We want to be sure that people, especially children, build their creative confidence in whatever way works best for them – and that they have a great time while they are at it!"

Camp Creative, doodlebug's weekly summer camps, will begin on June 14. Each week is dedicated to either clay or mosaics. Mornings (10 am – noon) are for children 4 – 6 and afternoons (1:30 – 4:30) for ages 7 – 13. The schedule is available on the website and many weeks are filling up quickly so check it out soon if you are interested.